
NEWS RELEASE

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SENATOR GREGG LAUDS CONGRESSMAN BASS ON INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN AIR LEGISLATION IN HOUSE OF REPS.

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), a cosponsor of the Clean Air Planning Act of 2003 in the U.S. Senate along with Senators Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) and Tom Carper (D-DE), today praised Congressman Charles Bass (R-NH) for the introduction of companion clean air legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Senator Gregg stated, "Congressman Bass continues to be a leader in the House of Representatives for issues affecting New Hampshire's environment and the health of our citizens. New Hampshire has become a depository for a variety of air-based pollutants from powerplants in the Midwest, so it is essential that the federal government do all it can to reduce the amount of emissions being produced and released into the air. The bill introduced today by Congressman Bass, similar to one we are working on in the Senate, establishes caps on the amount of pollution, including carbon dioxide, utilities can emit through a system of reductions and tradeable credits. This ensures the lowest possible impact on electricity producers while guaranteeing a reduction in the release of harmful pollutants. I look forward to working with Congressman Bass as both of these measure work their way through Congress."

CAPA follows a market-based "cap and trade" approach, which sets a ceiling for overall emissions of the four major emissions (carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury) but allows facilities the flexibility to choose the most effective way to reduce air pollution. This cap and trade approach is a proven method for the reduction of emissions and is successfully employed by current acid rain programs. By using a market-based format, the legislation seeks to minimize the cost that will be incurred by energy companies in compliance with the new regulations. The net effect will be cleaner air at minimal cost.

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